AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. through 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, and a cartridge case which houses the ink pack and constitutes an outer shell, the ink cartridge comprising:

an ink pack press member which is housed in the cartridge case along with the ink pack ~~and which adjusts the volume of ink to be filled into the ink pack in accordance with the volume of the press member~~, wherein said press member is separate from said cartridge case and is held by the cartridge case so that the consumption of ink from the ink pack does not cause movement of the press member.

25. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the ink pack is formed into a substantially rectangular shape and into a bag by sealing four sides of the ink pack; wherein the press member housed in the cartridge case along with the ink pack is formed into a frame shape having an window opening in a central portion thereof; and wherein the four sides of the ink pack are pressed by the frame-shaped press member.

26. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 25, wherein parts of the press member opposing the four sides of the ink pack are gradually reduced in thickness toward the window opening to define slope surfaces.

27. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 26, wherein the slope surfaces are curved.

28. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the press member is formed from resilient material.

29. (Original) The ink cartridge according to any one of claims 24 through 28, wherein the cartridge case is hermetically formed; and wherein, as pressurized air is introduced into the case when the ink cartridge is mounted to the recording apparatus, the ink pack is pressurized by air pressure.

30. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 29, wherein the cartridge case includes a first case and a second case; wherein after the ink pack and the press member are housed in the first case, an edge of an opening of the first case is sealed by a film member, thereby realizing a sealed state, and wherein the second case functions as a cover for preventing expansion of the film member when the film member receives the pressurized air.

31. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 30, wherein at least one lug-shaped member is formed on the second case; and wherein a tapered surface and an engagement step section are formed on the lug-shaped member such that, when the second case is attached to the first case, a flange section formed on the edge of the opening of the first case is relatively guided by and along the tapered surface to engage with the engagement step section.

32. through 42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein said press member is selected from a plurality of available press members having respective different shapes.

44. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the cartridge case includes an upper case and a lower case, and the lower case has a concave recess portion on which the ink pack is placed.

45. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 44, wherein the concave recessed portion is defined by a plurality of ribs protruded from a bottom surface of the lower case.

46. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 44, wherein the ink pack press member is disposed between the upper case and the ink pack.

47. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein an outer perimeter of the press member is arranged directly adjacent to an inner perimeter of the cartridge case.

48. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the press member is generally frame shaped, and comprises an inner perimeter and outer perimeter that are generally parallel to each other.

49. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 48, wherein the press member increases in thickness from the inner perimeter to the outer perimeter to create a tapered surface.

50. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the press member is substantially rigid and the ink pack is pliable.

51. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 49, wherein the press member further comprises a constant thickness portion between the inner perimeter and the outer perimeter, adjacent to the outer perimeter.

52. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 49, wherein the tapered surface faces the ink pack.

53. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the press member remains stationary relative to the cartridge case as the ink pack drains during operation.

54. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the position of the press member within the cartridge case is unaffected by the filling state of the ink pack.

55. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the press member is a substantially frame shaped structure arranged along the periphery of the ink pack.

56. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 55, wherein the press member has a substantially window shaped opening within the frame.

57. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the volume of the press member within the cartridge case limits an available volume for the ink pack to accommodate ink.

58. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 57, wherein various press members may be arranged within the cartridge case to modify the available volume.

59. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the cartridge case includes a case member and a lid member coupled to the case member, and the ink cartridge further comprises a film that is attached to an edge of an opening of the case member containing the ink pack and that is interposed between the ink pack and the lid member coupled to the case member.

60. (New) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, and a cartridge case which houses the ink pack and constitutes an outer shell, the ink cartridge comprising:

an ink pack press member having a tapered surface which is gradually thicker toward a periphery of the press member and which presses a welded peripheral portion of the ink pack when the press member is housed on the cartridge case along with the ink pack.

61. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the tapered surface extends along four sides of the press member to press the welded peripheral portion extending along four sides of the ink pack.

62. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein an outer perimeter of the press member is arranged directly adjacent to an inner perimeter of the cartridge case.

63. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the press member is generally frame shaped, and comprises an inner perimeter and outer perimeter that are generally parallel to each other.

64. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 63, wherein the press member increases in thickness from the inner perimeter to the outer perimeter to create a tapered surface.

65. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the press member is substantially rigid and the ink pack is pliable.

66. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 63, wherein the press member further comprises a constant thickness portion between the inner perimeter and the outer perimeter, adjacent to the outer perimeter.

67. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 64, wherein the tapered surface faces the ink pack.

68. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the press member is substantially rigid as compared to the ink pack.

69. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the press member remains stationary relative to the cartridge case as the ink pack drains during operation.

70. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the position of the press member within the cartridge case is unaffected by the filling state of the ink pack.

71. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the press member is a substantially frame shaped structure arranged along the periphery of the ink pack.

72. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 71, wherein the press member has a substantially window shaped opening within the frame.

73. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the volume of the press member within the cartridge case limits an available volume for the ink pack to accommodate ink.

74. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 73, wherein various press members may be arranged within the cartridge case to modify the available volume.

75. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein the cartridge case includes a case member and a lid member coupled to the case member, and the ink cartridge further

comprises a film that is attached to an edge of an opening of the case member containing the ink pack and that is interposed between the ink pack and the lid member coupled to the case member.

76. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 60, wherein said press member is held by the cartridge case so that the consumption of ink from the ink pack does not cause movement of the press member.

77. (New) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, and a cartridge case which houses the ink pack and constitutes an outer shell, the ink cartridge comprising:

an ink pack press member which is housed in the cartridge case along with the ink pack and which adjusts the volume of ink to be filled into the ink pack in accordance with the volume of the press member, wherein said press member is separate from said cartridge case,

wherein said press member is selected from a plurality of available press members having respective different shapes.

78. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein the press member comprises a tapered surface that extends along four sides of the press member to press the welded peripheral portion extending along four sides of the ink pack.

79. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein an outer perimeter of the press member is arranged directly adjacent to an inner perimeter of the cartridge case.

80. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein the press member is generally frame shaped, and comprises and inner perimeter and outer perimeter that are generally parallel to each other.

81. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 80, wherein the press member increases in thickness from the inner perimeter to the outer perimeter to create a tapered surface.

82. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein the press member is substantially rigid and the ink pack is pliable.

83. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 80, wherein the press member further comprises a constant thickness portion between the inner perimeter and the outer perimeter, adjacent to the outer perimeter.

84. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 81, wherein the tapered surface faces the ink pack.

85. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein the press member is substantially rigid as compared to the ink pack.

86. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein the press member remains stationary relative to the cartridge case as the ink pack drains during operation.

87. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein the position of the press member within the cartridge case is unaffected by the filling state of the ink pack.

88. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein the press member is a substantially frame shaped structure arranged along the periphery of the ink pack.

89. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 88, wherein the press member has a substantially window shaped opening within the frame.

90. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein the volume of the press member within the cartridge case limits an available volume for the ink pack to accommodate ink.

91. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 90, wherein various press members may be arranged within the cartridge case to modify the available volume.

92. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein the cartridge case includes a case member and a lid member coupled to the case member, and the ink cartridge further comprises a film that is attached to an edge of an opening of the case member containing the ink pack and that is interposed between the ink pack and the lid member coupled to the case member.

93. (New) The ink cartridge according to claim 77, wherein said press member is held by the cartridge case so that the consumption of ink from the ink pack does not cause movement of the press member.